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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1947

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ended December, 1947

BY

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.
(Medical Officer of Health).

To the Chairman and Members of the
Swanscombe Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the Public Health conditions of the district for the year ended December, 1947.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946.

I have extracted for the information of members certain matter of local interest from a report which has been issued from the County Health Department.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Council for their interest and support.

Your obedient Servant,

M. F. McDONNELL,
Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor W. Austen (Chairman)
,, F. Alder
,, E. W. Blackwell
,, T. Bodle, J.P.
,, C. W. Butcher
,, Mrs. L. E. Butcher
,, J. Childs
,, H. E. Durrant
,, F. H. J. Garland
,, E. Hills
,, W. O. Keary
,, F. W. Munn
,, Rev. S. J. W. Morgan, O.B.E., C.A.
,, A. E. Scutts
,, L. Todd
,, H. J. Town
,, D. T. Williams
,, Mrs. M. J. Wright

Clerk :
Mr. F. G. Peters.

Solicitors :
Messrs. Baily & Goff.

Medical Officer of Health :
M. F. McDonnell, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :
L. E. Croucher, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
(who is also Surveyor)

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :
F. W. Sharpe (part time)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	2,142
Population (Census 1931)	8,541
Present estimated population	7,901
Estimated population, 1946	7,696
,, ,, 1945	7,123
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1947)	2,244
Number of new houses erected year ended 31st December, 1947	14
Rateable value 31st December, 1947	£58,286
,, ,, ,, ,, 1946	£56,981
,, ,, ,, ,, 1945	£59,320
Sum represented by penny rate 1947	£222
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1946	£214
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1945	£247
Number of Births 1947	200
,, ,, ,, 1946	170
,, ,, ,, 1945	113

	Swanscombe. Live.	Swanscombe. Still.	England and Wales. Live.	England and Wales. Still.
Birth rate per 1,000 population 1947	25.3	.5	20.5	0.50
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1946	22.2	.25	19.1	
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1945	15.8	.42	16.1	0.46

Number of illegitimate births 1947	7
,, ,, ,, ,, 1946	9
,, ,, ,, ,, 1945	6
Number of deaths 1947	64
,, ,, ,, 1946	77
,, ,, ,, 1945	84

	Swanscombe.	England and Wales.
Death rate per 1,000 population 1947	9.02	12.0
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1946	10.0	11.5
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 1945	11.79	11.4

	Total	M.	F.
LIVE legitimate	193	89	104
illegitimate	7	2	5
STILLBIRTHS—			
Legitimate	4	3	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
DEATHS	64	31	33

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	24.4
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	25.8
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	8.1

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	5.0
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	5.18
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	8.0
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	—
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SWANSCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT, 1947.

	Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.
	All causes	31	33
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—
3.	Scarlet fever	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	4	1
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
8.	Syphilitic diseases	—	—
9.	Influenza	—	—
10.	Measles	—	—
11.	Infantile Paralysis, etc.	—	—
12.	Ac : inf : enceph :	—	—
13.	Cancer of mouth, etc. (m) uterus (f)	—	—
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	2	1
15.	Cancer of breast	—	1
16.	Cancer of other sites	2	2
17.	Diabetes	—	—
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	2	7
19.	Heart disease	8	10
20.	Other disease of circ. system	1	1
21.	Bronchitis	6	3
22.	Pneumonia	1	2
23.	Other resp. diseases	—	—
24.	Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	—	—
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	1	1
28.	Nephritis	—	1
29.	Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	—	—
31.	Premature birth	—	1
32.	Congenital malformation : Birth injury, etc.	—	—
33.	Suicide	—	1
34.	Road traffic accidents	—	—
35.	Other violent causes	2	—
36.	All other causes	2	1

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following temporary arrangements have been made for the reception and treatment of cases of infectious diseases :—

Smallpox—Joyce Green Isolation Hospital, Dartford. Telephone Dt. 3231.

Worcester Training Ship, off Greenhithe, to the Port of London Authority Hospital, Gravesend. Telephone : Gravesend 257.

Other cases to Dartford (Bow Arrow) Isolation Hospital. Tel. : Dartford 3369.

Poliomyelitis	1
Cases removed to Hospital	1
Percentage of cases removed	100%
Measles—	
Cases notified	130
Cases removed to Hospital	0
Percentage of cases removed	0
Scarlet Fever—	
Cases notified	23
Cases removed to Hospital	14
Percentage of cases removed	60.4%
Diphtheria	nil

Tuberculosis.

Statement of particulars appearing on the register of notifications of cases of Tuberculosis for the year ended 31st December, 1947.

	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Totals
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
(a) No. of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the commencement of the year	40	36	76	14	10	24	100
(b) No. of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year	42	42	84	14	9	23	107
(c) No. of cases notified during the year	7	8	15	—	—	—	15
(d) No. of deaths during the year	3	1	4	—	—	—	4

The following are the ages and occupations of those persons notified during the year :—

Age M.	Age F.	Occupation.	Age M.	Age F.	Occupation.
14		School age.		23	Civil Servant.
	17	Shorthand-typist.		24	Housewife.
	19	Canteen Worker.		24	Housewife.
19		General Labourer.	29		Fitter and Turner.
	20	Launderer.	48		Paper Finisher.
21		Carpenter's Labourer.	50		Labourer.
	22	Nurse.	57		Labourer.
	23	Housewife.			

DISPENSARIES.

Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, Gravesend Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m.
41, Overy Street, Dartford ..... Mondays, 10-12 p.m.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.
There was no need for action under these regulations.

Public Health Act 1925, Section 62.
Public Health Act 1936, Section 172.
There was no occasion for action under these Sections.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases			Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Venereal Diseases.

County Hospital, Dartford.	Men	Mondays	4-6 p.m.
	Women	Mondays	11-1 p.m.
22, Cobham Street, Gravesend.	Men	Thursdays	3.30-5 p.m.
		Tuesdays	11.30-1.30 p.m.
	Women	Tuesdays	2-3.30 p.m.
		Thursdays	2-3.30 p.m.

The undermentioned figures show the number of cases suffering from V.D. attending Dartford and Gravesend V.D. Clinics from Swanscombe Urban District :—

New Patients.	Total.
Syphilis	—
Gonorrhoea	2
Non-Venereal	8
No. of attendances of Swanscombe patients	43

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria was carried out to the school children at the local schools in addition to children being inoculated at Medical Practitioners' surgeries.

Immunisation is also carried out at the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, Parish Hall, All Saints, Galley Hill, Thursdays 2-4 p.m. ; Knockhall Lodge, Knockhall, Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m.

PRESENT POSITION.

	Under 5 years.	Between 5-15 years
Percentage immunised	31.7	69.8
Total number of children immunised (estimated)	209	769

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Article.	Number of Samples.
Barley Flour	1
Barley Sugar	1
Camphorated Oil	1
Cheese	3
Champagne Perry	1
Cod Liver Oil	1
Cold and Influenza Mixture	1
Coconut Flavouring	1
Evaported Milk	8
Gin	1
Gin and Orange	1
Ice Cream	1
Lard	2
Licorice Cough Mixture	1
Macleans Stomach Powder	1
Malt Vinegar	1
Milk	13
Mint Sauce	1
Orange Flavour Cordial	2
Pure Ground Coffee	1
Raspberry and Redcurrant Jam	1
Rose Hip Syrup	1
Salmon and Shrimp Paste	1
Saccharin	1
Whisky	1
Total	48

All samples genuine with the exception of the following :—

Orange Flavour Cordial. Inferior slightly. Deficient in sugar.
No action taken.

Salmon and Shrimp paste. Inferior. Fish contents 65% approximately.
No action taken.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

Articles Condemned.	Amount. lbs.	ozs.
Bacon	6	7
Mutton	227	0
Pork		10½
Sausages	4	0
Paste	1	0½
Meat Loaf	1	8
Salmon	4	8
Skate	91	0
Haddock	42	0
Kippers	42	0
Bloaters	42	0
Cod	28	0
Silver Hake	2	13

Articles Condemned.	Amount lbs.	ozs.
Fish Cakes	18	0
Tinned Milk	4	5
Cheese	5	5
Margarine		12
Tomatoes	2	4
Dates	72	0
Pears	3	12
Cherries	1	0
Sweets	5	8
Eggs	98	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

All milkshops, dairies, bakehouses and workshops were visited at least twice during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors and myself.

MILK SUPPLY.

Thirteen samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which were reported satisfactory.

Five samples of milk as supplied to schools were taken. All of these proved to be satisfactory.

One complaint was received of milk being delivered in dirty bottles.

Result : Public Health Department in whose district the bottling establishment is situated investigated and reported that an inspection was made and suggestions put forward to promote cleanliness.

CIRCULAR 2831—PROMOTION OF CLEANLINESS, GOOD HABITS AND THE ELIMINATION OF VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Cleansing Station, Brook Vale, Northfleet, is adapted for the cleansing of verminous persons, lethane is used in cases of infestation of head. Clothing is disinfected by steam disinfection while patients are undergoing treatment.

During 1947, 15 persons and contacts were treated.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Reports received on sample taken from tap on the Metropolitan Water Board Company supply to the area.

Analytical Details.

	Parts per 100,000.
Total solid residue	30.5
Chlorine	2.0
Free Ammonia	none
Albuminoid Ammonia	none
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.3
Nitrogen as Nitrites	none
Oxygen absorbed ¼ hour at 26.7 deg. C.	0.003
Oxygen absorbed 4 hours at 26.7 deg. C.	0.007
Toxic Metals	not detected.

Proportion of dwelling houses and population supplied from Public Water Mains :—

Direct to houses 100%

SEWAGE.

Frequent samples of sewage effluent from the Works are submitted to the County Analyst, and the following table shows the results expressed in parts per 100,000. In each case the County Analyst stated the effluent was suitable for discharge with the exception of one undiluted sample.

No. of sample	1	2	3
Date of sample	8/10/1947	7/9/1947	5/12/1947
Total solid residue : In suspension	9.0	16.5	
In solution	302	134	290
After ignition	279		
Chlorine	130	25.8	118
Free Ammonia	4.0	5.44	6.64
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.56	1.16	0.82
Nitrogen as Nitrates	None	None	None
Nitrogen as Nitrites	None	None	None
Oxygen absorbed ¼ hour at 26.7° C.	1.5	2.85	1.92
Oxygen absorbed 4 hours at 26.7° C.	2.7	5.22	3.62
Dissolved oxygen absorbed : 5 days	11.6	41.2	17

SWIMMING BATH.

1946.

Attendances :	Adults	13,167	Spectators	520
	Children paid for admission			9,994
	Children from schools			712

1947.

Attendances :	Adults	3,770	Spectators	1,054
	Children paid for admissiom			11,221
	Children from schools			2,355

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1947.

Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns Populations including London	148 Smaller Towns (resident 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	Administrative County London	Swanscombe
	Rates per 1,000 Population.				
Births :—					
Live	20.5*	23.3	22.2	22.7	25.3
Still	0.50*	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.5
Deaths :—					
All causes	12.0*	13.0	11.9	12.8	9.02
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Notifications :—					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	2.9
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	3.3
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.00
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.1
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	16.4
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	0.1

A dash (—) signifies that there was no death.
* Rates per 1,000 total population.

	Rates per 1,000 live births.				
Death under 1 year of age	41s	47	36	37	4.8
Deaths from Diarrhoea and enteritis under 2 years of age	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	0.00
	Rates per 1,000 total births (live and still)				
(a) **Notifications** :—					
Puerperal fever) Puerperal Pyrexia)	7.16	8.99	6.27	(1.21 (6.94†	4.8

(b) **Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.**

	Rates per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	Rates per million women aged 15-44.
140 Abortion with sepsis	0.10	9
140 Abortion without sepsis	0.06	5
147 Puerperal infections	0.16	
142-146) Other maternal 148-150) causes	0.85	

s per 1,000 related births.
† Including puerperal fever.

Swanscombe	0.00	0.00	0.00

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS, 1947.

The above regulations came into force during the period of report. There are 10 (ten) establishments in the district, five (5) are registered for retail only. Four (4) are registered to manufacture the cold mix on the premises, while one (1) is registered to make ice cream applying the Heat Treatment in the process of manufacture as prescribed by the regulations.

Nine samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, with the result that three were of grade 1, four of grade 2, and two of grade 4.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT 1946.
HEALTH SERVICES.
KENT COUNTY COUNCIL.
HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

County and School Medical Officer	A. Elliott	County Hall, Maidstone, Telephone 4321.
Deputy County and School Medical Officer	G. F. Bramley	County Hall, Maidstone, Telephone 4321.
Senior Assistant County Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare	Anna B. Gardiner	County Hall, Maidstone. Telephone 4321.
Senior Assistant County Medical Officer for Mental Welfare	Letitia M. Allen	County Hall, Maidstone. Telephone 4321.
Assistant County Medical Officer for School Health Service	G. P. Wallace	County Hall, Maidstone. Telephone 4321.
Senior Dental Officer	F. J. Saunders	County Hall, Maidstone. Telephone 4321.
Senior District Officer	H. Saunders, M.B.E.	County Hall, Maidstone. Telephone 4321.
Senior Midwifery and Nursing Officer	Miss E. C. Sanders	County Hall, Maidstone. Telephone 4321.
Superintendent Health Visitor	Miss C. M. Brett	County Hall, Maidstone. Telephone 4321.
Assistant Superintendent Health Visitor (North West Kent)	Miss A. Beck-Slinn	130, High St. (Home), Orpington. Telephone 3963. Downe House, (Office) Orpington. Telephone 3366.
Supervisor of Nurseries	Miss N. Lyle	The Willows, Chislehurst. 'Phone : Imperial 1631.
Domestic Help Organiser	To be appointed.	

DISTRICT OFFICERS.

These officers are responsible for—

1. Duties as authorised Officers under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts.
2. Acting as representatives of the County Health Department in dealing with enquiries made by the Public and arranging for County Health Services to be made available in cases of difficulty.
3. Carrying out the duties of the County Council under the National Assistance Act in (a) arranging admissions of old, handicapped and homeless people to residential establishments other than in cases of sickness ; (b) the care of moveable property of patients who are admitted to hospital or a residential establishment provided by the Council where it appears that there is danger of loss or damage to the property.

DISTRICT OFFICERS AND ASSISTANTS.

District.	Name and Address of Officer.	Office Telephone No.	Home Telephone No.
14. GRAVESEND Northfleet Swanscombe and part of Strood Rural	*Office*: Arthur Street, Gravesend	Gravesend 166	
	District Officer: Mr. G. T. JEFFERY, 357, Watling Street, Dartford		Dartford 3143
	Assistant District Officer: Mr. J. H. KEIGHLEY, 108, Green Walk, Crayford		Bexleyheath 2163

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND POST-NATAL CLINICS.

AREA No. 5.

Advice and ante-natal care is given at these Clinics.
Post-natal examinations are carried out at Ante-Natal Clinics.

SWANSCOMBE U.

New Parish Hall, Swanscombe, 1st and 3rd Monday, — p.m.

WOMEN'S WELFARE CLINICS.

These clinics are provided for the purpose of giving advice on women's minor ailments, sterility and on contraception where such advice is necessary for medical reasons.

AREA No. 5.

GRAVESEND B.

Central, Windmill Street, Gravesend, 2nd Saturday, — a.m.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

These centres are open at the days and times set out for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of infants and children under the age of five years. Infant foods, National Dried Milk and Ministry of Food Vitamin products are issued at these centres. A Medical Officer and a Health Visitor are in attendance at each centre.

Ministry of Food Offices and other Centres are also available for the supply of National Dried Milk and Ministry of Food Vitamin products for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and for children under five years of age.

SWANSCOMBE U.

New Parish Hall, Swanscombe	Thursday, — p.m.
Knockhall Lodge, Greenhithe	Tuesday, — p.m.

DAY NURSERIES.

These nurseries provide accommodation for the daily care of children under five years of age. Priority for admission is given in the following circumstances :—

(a) Children whose mothers need to work, who are :—
  (i) Unmarried mothers.
  (ii) Widows who require to supplement their pensions.
  (iii) Mothers with disabled husbands.

(b) Children whose mothers are :—
  (i) Women with large families who require assistance with the young children.
  (ii) Women in chronic ill-health whose household duties plus the care of the children are too much for them.
  (iii) Women who need to arrange for the care of a toddler while they have another baby.
  (iv) Women faced with an emergency such as a serious illness in the home.

A charge is made in respect of the meals provided for the child.

Application for admission should be made to the Matron of the Nursery.

Name and Address of Nursery.	Telephone No.
"Glendillion," Old Road, Gravesend.	Gravesend 1310.
"Daneholm," Pelham Road, Gravesend.	Gravesend 1219.
21, West Hill, Dartford.	Dartford 2354.
"The Lawns," 40, Church Path, Stone.	Greenhithe 86.
White Oak Hospital, Dartford.	

RESIDENTIAL NURSERIES.

These are Short Stay Nurseries for the care of children whose mothers are unable to care for them owing to confinement, illness, etc. Applicants should be referred to the Health Visitor, Welfare Centre, or District Officer, or in case of urgency should get in touch direct with the Health Department, County Hall, Maidstone.

Applications should not be made to the Nursery.

DOMESTIC HELP.

This service is to provide domestic help for households where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying in, and expectant mothers, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age. Householders are required to contribute towards the cost in accordance with their means.

AREA No. 5.

GRAVESEND B.

Apply to Domestic Help Section, c/o Health Department, 3, Woodville Terrace, Gravesend. Telephone : Gravesend 317.

NORTHFLEET U.

Apply to Domestic Help Section, c/o Council Offices, Northfleet. Telephone : Gravesend 1720.

HEALTH VISITORS.

These officers are appointed for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of young children, persons suffering from illness and expectant and nursing mothers and as to the measure necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

The Health Visitors also undertake duties in connection with the School Health Service.

SWANSCOMBE.

Mrs. M. Layton, 10, Lower Station Road, Crayford.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

This service, which is free, is to secure that an adequate number of midwives is employed by the Council for attending women in their own homes, either as midwives or maternity nurses.

The names, addresses and telephone numbers of midwives in Area 5 are given below.

HOME NURSING SERVICE.

This service, which is free, is to secure the attendance of nurses on persons who require nursing in their own homes. Apart from cases of emergency and accident, patients can only be attended when the nurse has been requested to do so by a doctor. At the present time it is not possible to provide a night service.

The names and addresses of Home Nurses in Area No. 5 are given below. Where the nurse is on the telephone the number is also given.

SWANSCOMBE U.

Midwives :

Miss M. G. Barron	60, Leonard Avenue, Swanscombe, Kent.	Gravesend 2385.
Mrs. D. Kemp	67, Broomfield Road, Swanscombe, Kent.	Gravesend 4121.

Home Nurse :

Miss R. E. Radburn	94, Ames Road, Swanscombe, Kent.	Gravesend 2910

COUNTY AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The County Council is responsible for the provision of a comprehensive ambulance service throughout the County. Other than in cases of accident and emergency, no ambulance or car will be provided except on the recommendation of a doctor, midwife, hospital or District Officer.

To facilitate the call-out of ambulance in cases of accident or emergency, arrangements have been made with the Post Office Authorities for such calls to be passed automatically to the nearest manned fire station, the staff of which will assume the responsibility of dealing with the emergency. The arrangement will not operate where direct lines exist between public call boxes and ambulance stations.

The service will be provided by (a) vehicles provided and manned by the County Council ; (b) vehicles operated and manned by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, British Red Cross Society and the Margate Ambulance Corps acting as agents of the Council and (c) sitting case cars provided through the Hospital Car Service as the agents of the Council.

PROVISION OF NURSING REQUISITES.

Arrangements have been made with the British Red Cross Society and St. John Ambulance Brigade for the continuance of the Medical Loan Depots on behalf of the County Council. The full range of nursing requisites will be available at these depots and details of the addresses and the times the depots are open for distribution are available in the district offices. These arrangements will be in addition to the loan cupboards kept by District Nurses. The depots will deal with all applications for the loan of nursing requisites.

HOSPITAL SERVICES.

From the 5th July, 1948, the hospital and specialist services, including institutions for the chronic sick, mental homes, maternity homes, convalescent homes, dispensaries and out-patient department will be administered by the Regional Hospital Boards set up by the Minister of Health. The Southeast Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board will be responsible for all hospitals in Kent, but for day to day administration Hospital Management Committees have been set up to deal with groups of hospitals.

The District Officer will be supplied with particulars relating to each hospital in his district, but generally speaking admission to hospital is a matter for the doctor in charge of the patient and he will make arrangements direct with the hospital authorities, calling upon the County Ambulance Service for the removal of the patient to hospital where this is considered necessary.

DISTRICT No. 14.

Hospitals.

Gravesend and North Kent Hospital—Phone Gravesend 274.
Gravesend Institution—Phone Gravesend 139.

Medical Loan Depots.

GRAVESEND (B.R.C.S.) 12, Singlewell Road	By appointment with Mrs. Roberts. Phone Gravesend 403
NORTHFLEET (St. John) 69, Dover Road (Mr. C. J. Sims. Phone Northfleet 4603)	Monday-Friday, 7.30 p.m. 9 p.m.
GRAVESEND (St. John) Park House, Park Pl. (Miss L. Smith. Phone Gravesend 854)	Daily 8 a.m.—8 p.m.

Ministry of National Insurance.

Gravesend Local Office,
" Ravenscourt,"
Pelham Road,
Gravesend.

Ambulance Station and Address	Operated by	Vehicle Strength		Telephone No.	Neighbouring Stations
		Ambulances	S/C Cars		
Northfleet: The Hill, Northfleet	St. John Ambulance Brigade	2	—	Gravesend 4603	Gravesend Rochester Dartford
Gravesend. Commercial Place, Gravesend	St. John Ambulance Brigade	5	—	Gravesend 854	Northfleet Rochester Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL AMBULANCE SERVICE

Removal of Patients suffering from Smallpox and Typhus.

1. Arrangements have been made with the London County Council for the removal of patients suffering from small-pox and typhus.

Telephone : WATERLOO 3311.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

Facilities for vaccination, free of direct cost, against smallpox are available for infants at all Child Welfare Clinics and all Medical Practitioners have been invited to participate in the scheme.

Vaccine Lymph can be obtained from the County Laboratory, Maidstone, by all medical practitioners carrying out vaccination under the Council's arrangements.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

In the case of every child born it is the duty of the father of the child, if at the time of the birth he is actually residing on the premises where the birth takes place, and of any person in attendance upon the mother at the time of, or within six hours after the birth, to send notice of the birth within thirty-six hours, to the County Medical Officer of Health, County Hall, Maidstone.

Postcards with prepaid postage for this purpose are supplied to Medical Practitioners, Midwives, Hospitals and Maternity Homes, on application to the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

Special outfits for use when premature babies are to be nursed at home, or for their conveyance to hospital, are available free on application by a doctor or midwife at the following addresses :—

The Surgeon Superintendent, County Hospital, Farnborough.
The Surgeon Superintendent, County Hospital, Pembury.
The Surgeon Superintendent, County Hospital, Sheppey.
The Medical Superintendent, Willesborough Hospital, Nr. Ashford.
The Medical Superintendent, County Hospital, Dover.
The Medical Superintendent, Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.

MATERNITY OUTFITS.

Sterilised outfits for use at a domiciliary confinement are available free on application by a doctor or midwife, direct from the County Medical Officer, County Hall, Maidstone.

The outfit contains :—

12 extra large pads, in parcels of 3.
2 twill bed sheets, wrapped separately (size 36″×56″).
6 No. 2 Brass nickel-plated safety pins.
2 dozen Abrobent cotton wool 1½″ squares.
6 Lint Ubilical Pads.
¾ yard crepe bandage, 4″.
2 sheets tarred paper (size 30″×36″), not wrapped.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Facilities for immunisation, free of cost, are available at all Child Welfare Centres, and at special Immunising Clinics, and all Medical Practitioners have been invited to participate in the scheme, which provides for free immunisation against diphtheria. The child should normally have the first injection between the ages of eight months and one year ; and reinforcing doses shortly before starting school and again at nine years of age.

Supplies of A.P.T. and T.A.F. can be obtained from the County Laboratory, Maidstone, by all practitioners carrying out immunisation under the Council's arrangements.

SPECIALIST CLINICS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN.

The following clinic services are provided by the Council :—

(1) Ophthalmic.
(2) Diseases of the ear, nose and throat.
(3) Speech defects.
(4) Child guidance.
(5) Orthopaedic.

These centres are open in the district named for the treatment of children in attendance at maintained schools and children under school age. Patients attend at these centres by appointment, and applications for treatment should be sent to the County Medical Officer.

DENTAL AND ORTHODONTIC SERVICES.

These centres are open on the days and times set out for the purpose of treatment of children in attendance at maintained schools, expectant and nursing mothers, and children under school age. In addition, temporary dental clinics are held throughout the administrative area. Except in the case of emergency, patients should not be sent to these clinics without a previous appointment. Applications to be sent to the County Medical Officer.

MINOR AILMENT CLINICS.

These centres are open on the days and times set out for the purpose of the treatment of children in attendance at maintained schools. In addition, the Health Visitors attend at the clinics at more frequent intervals, if necessary.

Permanent Dental Clinics. West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet.	Usual days of attendance. Every Monday, Thursday and Friday.

Specialist Clinics :

Child Guidance	14, Canterbury Road, Ashford.
	The Towers, Canterbury.
	118, Maidstone Road, Chatham.
	Mayplace Road, Clinic, Crayford.
Ear, Nose and Throat.	Granville Villa, Granville Road, Sheerness.
	County Hospital, Chatham.
	36, Albany Road, Sittingbourne.
	Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.
Ophthalmic.	Balmoral Gardens Clinic, Gillingham.
	118, Maidstone Road, Chatham.
	Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.
	Granville Road, Sheerness.
	36, Albany Road, Sittingbourne.
	14, Canterbury Road, Ashford.
	Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.
Orthopaedic.	St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.
	Gravesend and North Kent Hospital.
	Johnson House, Burley Road, Sittingbourne.
	Kent and Canterbury Hospital, Canterbury.
	Child Welfare Centre, Station Road, Ashford.
	County Hospital, Minster.
Speech Defects.	36, Albany Road, Sittingbourne.
	14, Canterbury Road, Ashford.
	The Towers, Canterbury.
	118, Maidstone Road, Chatham.
	County Hospital, Dartford.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses.

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	743
	Number of inspections made for that purpose	743
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations, 1925 and 1932	659
	Number of inspections made for that purpose	659
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	10
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the Preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	147

2. Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the L.A. or its officers	60

3. **Action under Statutory Powers.**

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 63

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners 35

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ..... —

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 84

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners 27

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ..... —

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ..... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ..... —

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made ..... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Clsoing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... —

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Swanscombe Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1947 of work carried out under the Public Health, Housing, Factories and Food and Drugs Acts, etc.

Investigation was carried out of all cases of infectious diseases, disinfection of beddings, clothing and premises, inspection under the Factory and Workshops Act, inspection of foods, sampling of milk and water, etc., investigation of complaints, interviewing builders and owners of property concerning sanitary work. Other duties are clerical work in connection with the above and administration and supervision of the Cleansing Department.

Number of complaints received during the year	201
Total number of visits made	1494
Preliminary Notices served	151
,, ,, complied with	86
Statutory Notices served	80
,, ,, complied with	78

Verbal notice only was given on 35 occasions.

Visits made by Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1947 :—

First visits, Public Health Act 1936 and Housing Act 1936	743
Re-visits, Public Health Act 1936	364
Infectious disease enquiries	184
Inspections of verminous premises	10
Visits in connection with verminous persons	15
Water supply and subsequent visits	2
Drainage inspections	34
Drains tested	11
Visits regarding cesspools	4
Housing Act visits and revisits	421
Moveable dwelling inspections	1
Rats and mice primary visits	65
Rats and mice subsequent visits	50
Factories visited	26
Bakehouse—basement	2
Bakehouses—ground level	8
Food premises	201
Dairies and milkshops	2
Milk sampling	16
Water sampling	1
Sewage sampling	3
Stables	2
Miscellaneous, accumulations animals	21
	2191

The following is a summary of nuisances and defects remedied during the year :—

Accumulations of offensive refuse removed	2
Animals in an unfit state	3
Ashbins provided	155
Ceilings repaired	54
Cesspools repaired or abolished	6
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	6
Chimney flues repaired	4
Doors repaired or renewed	6
Door frames repaired or renewed	4
Drainage Systems :—	
Drains repaired or reconstructed	6
Drains Cleansed	21
Gulley traps repaired or renewed	1
Gulley trap gratings provided	1
Soil and vent pipes provided	8
Inspection chambers repaired	8
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	22
Firegrates repaired or renewed	5
Fireplaces, brickwork and plasterwork repaired	5
Floors repaired or relaid	15
Floors, sub-floor ventilation provided	5
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed	1
Roofs repaired	26
Sinkstones repaired or renewed	3

Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	4
Staircase repaired	1
Stoves repaired or renewed	9
Rats, premises treated	60
Verminous rooms	3
Walls, brickwork repaired or repointed	16
Wall, damp proof course inserted	9
Walls, internal plasterwork repaired	86
Washing boilers, coppers repaired or renewed	10
Water closets :—	
External structure repaired	12
Internal structure repaired	6
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	15
Flush pipes repaired or renewed	1
Basins and traps renewed	20
Seats repaired or renewed	11
Water supply, supply pipes, etc., repaired	7
Windows, woodwork of frames, sashes or sills repaired or renewed	50
Yard Surfaces repaired or renewed	15
Miscellaneous	25
Approximate number of separate premises in the area	2367

Number of premises containing each type of sanitary convenience in district (approximate) :—

W.C's into drainage system	2281	W.C's into cesspools	86
Earth closets or privy middens	1	Pail Closets	3

INFECTION AND DISINFECTION.

During the year 205 cases of infectious diseases were investigated, viz :—

Scarlet fever	23
Tuberculosis	15
Measles	130
Whooping Cough	35
Puerperia Pyrexia	1
Poliomyelitis	1
Total	205

Included in this was the supervision of the disinfection of same.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) The number of (a) Council Houses 3 ; (b) other houses 4 ; (i) found to be infested 7 ; (ii) disinfected 7.

(2) The method employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs is by fumigation, (Fumite), contains D.D.T. 60% in weight.

(3) The method employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin, routine inspection and disinfestation.

(4) The work of disinfestation : (a) Council Houses, Local Authority. (b) Private houses, Local Authority at owner's cost.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

During the year since the Council have fallen in with the Ministry of Food (Private dwellings, special scheme 1946/47), for testing the sewers and surveying the district, generally, the intensification of the campaign against rats and mice has been accelerated.

The district survey was carried out by the Council's part-time Rodent Operator, with the result that 685 baits were laid, the estimated kill was 820. Treatment was also carried out periodically to major infested areas.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

A weekly collection has been reasonably maintained. One S.D. Freighter (registered 1939) of 6 cubic yards capacity is used for this work. One driver and three men are employed on this vehicle. Approximately 5,513 cubic yards were collected and disposed of.

STREET CLEANSING, GULLEY AND CESSPOOL EMPTYING.

Although these services were reasonably maintained, it was at times necessary to loan vehicles from the neighbouring authorities. The Council's Scammell at times being out of commission owing to mechanical defects.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

1. **INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted (4)
Factories with Mechanical power	24	3	—
Factories without Mechanical power	22	—	—
Other premises under the Act	9	3	—
Totals	55	6	—

2. **DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars	Number of Defects			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—				
Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Not seperate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	2	2	—	—
Totals	6	6	—	—

	No. in district	No. of visits in 1947	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	6	12	1	1
Dairies	1	2	—	—
*Slaughterhouses—				
Registered	2	4	—	—
Licensed	2			
Other food-preparing places which are, as such, subject to inspection	28	207	3	3
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Common Lodging Houses	—	—	—	—
Houses-let-in-lodgings	—	—	—	—
Factories	24	13	3	3
Workshops	22	10	—	—
Workplaces (other than out-workers' homes)	15	5	3	3

* No licences granted.

Housing Act 1936. Overcrowding.

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	4
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	7
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	38
(b)	(i) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	58
(d)	(i) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

(1) **Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority :—**

1919 Scheme	65
1923 ,,	28
1924 ,,	228
Non-subsidy	112
1936 Scheme	28
Pre-war houses being sold under mortgage	34
Temporary	100
Slum Clearance Area	1
New houses, Permanent type	9
Total	605
Requisitioned Units	18

(2) **Number of new houses built during 1947 :—**

(a) By local Authority	9
(b) By other bodies or persons	1

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
L. E. CROUCHER,
Sanitary Inspector.